

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A video processing apparatus for specifying frames of content to be start frames of a plurality of viewing segments of the content, when segmenting ~~[[a]] the content into the plurality of viewing segments, the video processing apparatus~~ comprising:

a specifying information memory storing a plurality of pieces of specifying information, each piece of specifying information of the plurality of pieces of specifying information (i) each showing a feature of frames to be specified as start frames and each corresponding to a different type of content, and (ii) including:

a first condition identifying a feature of frames of the content to be detected as candidates for presentation frames, each of the presentation frames for being displayed as a representative still image of a respective viewing segment of the plurality of viewing segments;

an exclusion condition identifying a feature of frames of the content to be excluded from being the candidates for the presentation frames;

a second condition identifying a feature of frames of the content to be detected as candidates for start frames; and

a selection condition identifying a relationship between a presentation frame of the content and a frame of the content that is to be selected as a start frame;

a content obtaining unit operable to obtain a content;

an information obtaining unit operable to obtain type information identifying ~~showing~~ the type of the obtained content;

an extracting unit operable to extract, from the specifying information memory, a piece of specifying information, of the plurality of pieces of specifying information, that corresponds ~~corresponding~~ to the type of the content identified ~~shown~~ by the obtained type information; and

a specifying unit operable, in accordance with the extracted piece of specifying information, to (i) specify the presentation frames of the content by detecting, from all frames of the content, frames of the content satisfying the first condition and by subsequently excluding, from the detected frames satisfying the first condition, frames satisfying the exclusion condition, and (ii) specify start frames of the content by detecting, from all frames of the content, frames of the content satisfying the second condition and by subsequently selecting, from the detected frames satisfying the second condition, frames satisfying the relationship identified by the selection condition with respect to the specified presentation frames ~~start frames present in the content, in accordance with the extracted piece of specifying information.~~

Claim 2 (Cancelled)

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) The video processing apparatus of Claim 1 ~~Claim 2~~, further comprising[[:]] an index storage unit operable to store, in correspondence with the content, a ~~respective display time-times~~ of each of the specified start frames of the content ~~frame~~ and each of the specified presentation frames of the content ~~frame specified by the specifying unit.~~

Claim 4 (Cancelled)

Claim 5 (Cancelled)

Claim 6 (Currently Amended) The video processing apparatus of Claim 1-Claim 5,

wherein the specifying unit includes:

a plurality of detecting subunits, each detecting subunit of the plurality of detecting subunits being operable to detect frames of the content having a different feature;

an excluding subunit operable to exclude, from the detected frames satisfying the first condition, frames satisfying the exclusion condition ~~from frames satisfying the first condition~~; and

a selecting subunit operable to select, from the detected frames satisfying the second condition, frames satisfying the relationship identified ~~relation shown~~ by the selection condition ~~from frames satisfying the second condition~~, and

wherein each of the first condition, the exclusion condition, and the second condition each are is an identifier to be used by one detecting subunit of one of the plurality of detecting subunits to be used.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended) The video processing apparatus of Claim 6-Claim 4,

wherein, when operating in accordance with ~~[[a]]~~ the extracted piece of specifying information corresponding to ~~the a predetermined~~ type of the content identified by the obtained type information, the specifying unit (i) detects, from all ~~the frames present in~~ of the content, a plurality of large-caption start frames, each large-caption start frame, of the plurality of large-caption start frames, being of which is a first frame of a series of frames of the content during which a caption of a size larger than a threshold continuously appears in a predetermined region, ~~small-caption frames in each of which a caption of a size smaller than a threshold appears in a~~

~~region other than the predetermined region, CM frames which constitute a commercial message, and transition frames each of which is a first frame of a series of frames of similar images, and~~
(ii) specifies, as a presentation frame of the content, each large-caption start frame, of the plurality of large-caption start frames, ~~frame remaining after removing, from the plurality of large-caption start frames, the~~ small-caption frames having a caption of a size smaller than a threshold appearing in a region other than the predetermined region ~~and the CM frames from the large-caption start frames~~, and (iii) specifies as a start frame, for each presentation frame, a closest preceding transition frame to the presentation frame.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended) The video processing apparatus of Claim 7 ~~Claim 4~~, wherein, when operating in accordance with [[a]] the extracted piece of specifying information corresponding to a predetermined the type of the content identified by the obtained type information, the specifying unit (i) detects, from all frames present in the content, ~~excludes frames which constitute a commercial message from all the frames present in the content~~, (ii) detects from the remaining frames, large-caption start frames each of which is a first frame of a series of frames during which a caption of a size larger than a threshold continuously appears in a predetermined region, small-caption frames in each of which a caption of a size smaller than a threshold appears in a region other than the predetermined region, and a plurality of transition frames, each transition frame, of the plurality of transition frames, being (a) of which is a first frame of a series of frames of the content of similar images, (b) silent frames of the content having audio data below a predetermined volume level, (c) music-start frames of the content having a first frame of a series of frames of the content having audio data representing a piece of music data, or (d) speech-start frames having a first frame of a series of frames of the content

having audio data representing a speech of a specific speaker ~~(iii) specifies as a presentation frame each frame remaining after removing the small caption frames from the large caption start frames, and (iv) and (ii) specifies as a start frame of the content, for each presentation frame of the content, a frame of the content closest preceding transition frame to the presentation frame among all of the detected frames preceding the presentation frame.~~

Claims 9-15 (Cancelled)

Claim 16 (Currently Amended) The video processing apparatus of Claim 1 ~~Claim 2~~, further comprising[[[:]] a playback unit operable to play back the content starting from a start frame of the content specified by the specifying unit.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended) The video processing apparatus of Claim 16, ~~further comprising:~~

wherein the video processing apparatus further comprises:

_____ an index storing unit operable to store pairs of display times of each start frame and presentation frame specified for a respective viewing segment, of the plurality of viewing segments, by the specifying unit;

_____ a display unit operable to display a presentation frame specified for each viewing segment, of the plurality of viewing segments, by the specifying unit; and

_____ a user-selection unit operable to select, in accordance with a user selection, at least one of the displayed presentation frames ~~displayed, in accordance with a user selection, and~~ ~~wherein~~

wherein the playback unit plays back the content starting from a start frame of a viewing segment, of the plurality of viewing segments, to which the user-selected presentation frame belongs.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended) The video processing apparatus of Claim 17, wherein the display unit displays the presentation frames specified for the plurality of viewing segments by generating a thumbnail image of each presentation frame of the presentation frames of the content and displaying the generated thumbnail images in list form.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended) The video processing apparatus of Claim 17, ~~wherein~~
wherein the user-selection unit stores the at least one of the selected presentation frames ~~frame~~ as a reference image into the specifying information memory, and
wherein the specifying unit specifies the presentation frames by detecting frames of the content ~~which are~~ similar to the reference image with respect to a location of a region in which a caption appears.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended) The video processing apparatus of Claim 1, ~~further comprising:~~

wherein the video processing apparatus includes a recording unit operable to obtain a content and type information of the content, and to record the content to a recording medium in correspondence with the type information, ~~wherein~~

wherein after the recording unit records the type information and at least a part of the content, the content obtaining unit sequentially obtains the part of the content from the recording medium, and

wherein the specifying unit sequentially specifies a start frame present in the part of the content obtained by the content obtaining unit.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended) The video processing apparatus of Claim 1, ~~further comprising:~~

wherein the video processing apparatus comprises a recording unit operable to obtain a content and type information of the content, encode the content, and record the encoded content in correspondence with the type information, ~~wherein~~

wherein, after the recording unit records the type information and encodes at least a part of the content, the content obtaining unit sequentially obtains the encoded part of the content, and

wherein the specifying unit obtains an analysis ~~analyses~~ of the encoded part of the content ~~conducted by the recording unit for the encoding~~, and sequentially specifies a start frame present in the encoded part of the content using the obtained analysis ~~analyses~~.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended) The video processing apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising[[[:]] an updating unit operable to obtain a new version of a piece of specifying information, of the plurality of pieces of specifying information, that corresponds ~~corresponding~~ to a specific type of content, and operable to record the new version of the piece of specifying information to the specifying information memory.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended) The video processing apparatus of Claim 22, ~~wherein~~
wherein the updating unit obtains the new version of the piece of specifying information
when the video processing apparatus is connected, via a communication network, to a provider
apparatus for providing specifying information, and ~~judges~~ judging that the new version of the
piece of specifying information is available, and
wherein the new version of the piece of specifying information is recorded to the
specifying information memory by updating, to the new version of the piece of specifying
information, a stored piece of specifying information, of the plurality of pieces of specifying
information, stored therein that corresponds ~~corresponding~~ to the specific type ~~to the new~~
version.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended) The video processing apparatus of Claim 23, wherein ~~a~~ the
judgment as to whether the new version of the piece of specifying information is available is
made each time the specifying unit processes the specific type of content.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended) An integrated circuit for use in a video processing
apparatus that specifies frames of content to be start frames of a plurality of viewing segments of
the content, when segmenting ~~[[a]]~~ the content into the plurality of viewing segments, the video
processing apparatus having a specifying information memory storing a plurality of pieces of
specifying information ~~each showing a feature of frames to be specified as start frames and~~, each
piece of specifying information of the plurality of pieces of specifying information
corresponding to a different type of content ~~[[,]]~~ and including (i) a first condition identifying a

feature of frames of the content to be detected as candidates for presentation frames, each of the presentation frames for being displayed as a representative still image of a respective viewing segment of the plurality of viewing segments, (ii) an exclusion condition identifying a feature of frames of the content to be excluded from being the candidates for the presentation frames, (iii) a second condition identifying a feature of frames of the content to be detected as candidates for start frames, and (iv) a selection condition identifying a relationship between a presentation frame of the content and a frame of the content that is to be selected as a start frame, the integrated circuit comprising:

a content obtaining module operable to obtain a content;

an information obtaining module operable to obtain type information identifying ~~showing~~ the type of the obtained content;

an extracting module operable to extract, from the specifying information memory, a piece of specifying information, of the plurality of pieces of specifying information, that corresponds ~~corresponding~~ to the type of the content identified ~~shown~~ by the obtained type information; and

a specifying module operable ~~to specify start frames present in the content~~, in accordance with the extracted piece of specifying information, to (i) specify the presentation frames of the content by detecting, from all frames of the content, frames of the content satisfying the first condition and by subsequently excluding, from the detected frames satisfying the first condition, frames satisfying the exclusion condition, and (ii) specify start frames of the content by detecting, from all frames of the content, frames of the content satisfying the second condition and by subsequently selecting, from the detected frames satisfying the second condition, frames

satisfying the relationship identified by the selection condition with respect to the specified presentation frames.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended) A video processing method for use by a video processing apparatus that specifies frames of content to be start frames of a plurality of viewing segments of the content, when segmenting ~~[[a]]~~ the content into the plurality of viewing segments, the video processing apparatus having a specifying information memory storing a plurality of pieces of specifying information ~~each showing a feature of frames to be specified as start frames and~~, each piece of specifying information of the plurality of pieces of specifying information corresponding to a different type of content and including (i) a first condition identifying a feature of frames of the content to be detected as candidates for presentation frames, each of the presentation frames for being displayed as a representative still image of a respective viewing segment of the plurality of viewing segments, (ii) an exclusion condition identifying a feature of frames of the content to be excluded from being the candidates for the presentation frames, (iii) a second condition identifying a feature of frames of the content to be detected as candidates for start frames, and (iv) a selection condition identifying a relationship between a presentation frame of the content and a frame of the content that is to be selected as a start frame, the video processing method comprising ~~the steps of:~~

obtaining a content;

obtaining ~~[[a]]~~ type information identifying ~~showing a~~ the type of the obtained content;

extracting, from the specifying information memory, a piece of specifying information, of the plurality of pieces of specifying information, that corresponds ~~corresponding~~ to the type of the content identified ~~shown~~ by the obtained type information; ~~and~~

~~specifying start frames present in the content~~, in accordance with the extracted piece of specifying information, presentation frames of the content by detecting, from all frames of the content, frames of the content satisfying the first condition and by subsequently excluding, from the detected frames satisfying the first condition, frames satisfying the exclusion condition; and
specifying, in accordance with the extracted piece of specifying information, start frames of the content by detecting, from all frames of the content, frames of the content satisfying the second condition and by subsequently selecting, from the detected frames satisfying the second condition, frames satisfying the relationship identified by the selection condition with respect to the specified presentation frames.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended) A non-transitory computer-readable recording medium have a video processing program recorded thereon, the video processing program for causing a device to specify frames of content to be start frames of a plurality of viewing segments of the content, when segmenting ~~[[a]]~~ the content into the plurality of viewing segments, the device having a specifying information memory storing a plurality of pieces of specifying information each showing a feature of frames to be specified as start frames and, each piece of specifying information of the plurality of pieces of specifying information corresponding to a different type of content~~[[,]]~~ and including (i) a first condition identifying a feature of frames of the content to be detected as candidates for presentation frames, each of the presentation frames for being displayed as a representative still image of a respective viewing segment of the plurality of viewing segments, (ii) an exclusion condition identifying a feature of frames of the content to be excluded from being the candidates for the presentation frames, (iii) a second condition identifying a feature of frames of the content to be detected as candidates for start frames, and

(iv) a selection condition identifying a relationship between a presentation frame of the content and a frame of the content that is to be selected as a start frame, the video processing program causing a computer to execute a method comprising the steps of:

obtaining a content;

obtaining [[a]] type information identifying the showing a type of the obtained content;

extracting, from the specifying information memory, a piece of specifying information, of the plurality of pieces of specifying information, that corresponds ~~corresponding~~ to the type of the content identified ~~shown~~ by the obtained type information; ~~and~~

~~specifying start frames present in the content,~~ in accordance with the extracted piece of specifying information, presentation frames of the content by detecting, from all frames of the content, frames of the content satisfying the first condition and by subsequently excluding, from the detected frames satisfying the first condition, frames satisfying the exclusion condition; and

specifying, in accordance with the extracted piece of specifying information, start frames of the content by detecting, from all frames of the content, frames of the content satisfying the second condition and by subsequently selecting, from the detected frames satisfying the second condition, frames satisfying the relationship identified by the selection condition with respect to the specified presentation frames.